

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

ISSUED WEEKLY BY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Vol. 34

March 22, 1937

No. 12

L A T E C A B L E S . . .

India second estimate of 1937 wheat acreage placed at 32,490,000 acres as against the second estimate for 1936 revised to 33,331,000 acres and the final figure of 33,606,000 acres. (Director of Statistics, Calcutta.)

Tunis 1936 acreage and production reported as follows, with 1935 comparisons in parentheses: Bread wheat 331,000 acres (321,000), 3,674,000 bushels (5,879,000); durum wheat 890,000 acres (1,508,000), 4,409,000 bushels (11,023,000); barley 741,000 acres (1,532,000), 2,985,000 bushels (14,238,000); oats 62,000 acres (74,000), 689,000 bushels (1,240,000); corn 20,000 acres (44,000), 98,000 bushels (236,000). (International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.)

Poland 1936 production reported as follows, with 1935 comparisons in parentheses: Corn 4,134,000 bushels (4,978,000), flaxseed 2,834,000 (2,793,000), flax fiber 81,570,000 pounds (87,811,000), hempseed 41,887,000 (45,070,000) hemp fiber 26,455,000 (26,681,000), tobacco 24,251,000 pounds (24,260,000). (International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.)

Sydney, Australia, wool sales closed March 18. Compared with the evening of the series on March 15, prices for all well-grown descriptions were ruling in seller's favor; other sorts were firm. (Agricultural Attaché, C. C. Taylor, London.)

.

GRAINS

The European wheat situation

The European import requirements of wheat during 1937-38 will be more dependent upon the outturn of the current domestic crops than has been the case for several years, according to the Berlin office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The European bread-grain crop of 1936 was the smallest since 1931; stocks on July 31, 1937, will be at the lowest level of many years; and there is a tendency evident in many countries toward building up reserve stocks.

Acreage and crop prospects

Some increase in the 1937 wheat acreage is indicated by early estimates, but it probably will be small in spite of the fact that the 1936 acreage was below that of the 3 preceding years. In many countries, adverse weather conditions were experienced during the fall sowing seasons of both 1935 and 1936. Spring seedings may show some expansion this year, but the total European wheat acreage is not expected to exceed 76,600,000 acres, which is not greatly different from the 1930-1934 average of 76,107,000 acres. The condition of the winter crop is generally less satisfactory than at this time last year. With favorable weather during the spring and summer, good yields might be obtained, but some concern has already been expressed over crop prospects. Conditions in the Danube Basin are considered good, but another record crop is not anticipated. Prospects are generally varied in the Mediterranean Basin and quite uncertain in Spain. Weather conditions have been rather unfavorable in France, but in Italy and the British Isles the crop has made a good start.

Market and trade situation

Reduced wheat crops in overseas exporting countries and active European demand during recent months resulted in the highest level of world prices since 1929. Net imports during 1936-37 by European countries are expected to total about 460,000,000 bushels, or around 120,000,000 bushels more than imports in 1935-36. The increase in the volume of European needs has been met to a large extent this season by exports from the record crop of the Danube Basin. Czechoslovakia and Poland have also been important sources of supply. Overseas countries, therefore, have not benefited as much as might have been expected. Italy has been an important importer, and Germany and France have sizable deficits but have postponed importation in the hope of favorable crops in 1937. Spain has been a recent purchaser and may become more important as the season advances. The desire to build up stocks apparent in several countries, especially in the United Kingdom, may be a potential factor in strengthening the world market for some time to come.

- - - - -

The oriental wheat situation

The 1937 oriental wheat crop is expected to be from 10 to 25 percent smaller than that of 1936, according to the Shanghai office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The 1936 production of China, as reported by the International Institute of Agriculture, and the official estimates for Japan and Manchuria total about 926,000,000 bushels. Increases may take place this season in Japan and Manchuria, but they will be more than offset by the expected reduction in China, which accounts for over 90 percent of the oriental crop. Dry weather not only curtailed Chinese sowings but also retarded the development of the crop to some extent.

Because of the record rice and other food crops harvested last year, wheat and flour requirements for 1936-37 are estimated at only about 15,600,000 bushels as compared with 34,200,000 bushels in 1935-36. Imports during July-January 1936-37 were largely from Canada and Australia.

China

Rainfall in China from September 1936 through January 1937 was generally below average. Seeding operations were especially handicapped in the Yangtze Valley and in North China, where the plants were also damaged by later drought conditions. The 1937 crop is therefore expected to be materially reduced. Import requirements in 1937-38 are likely to be above the 2,750,000 bushels estimated for the 1936-37 season. No interest is being shown at the present time in foreign wheat, and in spite of higher world prices, wheat and flour prices at Shanghai declined during the week ended March 12. The demand for flour has been recently curtailed, and milling requirements have been filled by arrivals of domestic wheat. Australian wheat was nominally quoted in Shanghai on March 11 at \$1.32 per bushel, while future prices of domestic wheat ranged from \$1.05 for March delivery to 85 cents for new-crop wheat to be delivered in June. Domestic flour was \$1.17 per bag of 49 pounds for March delivery and \$1.03 for June delivery. Australian flour, c.i.f. Hong Kong, was \$5.26 per barrel of 196 pounds.

Japan

The area sown to wheat in Japan for the 1937 crop is unofficially reported to be from 10 to 15 percent larger than that sown for 1936. Since weather conditions in January and February were rather unfavorable, little if any increase is expected in the 1937 crop. Estimated imports for 1936-37 are placed at 9,921,000 bushels. Actual imports of wheat during July-January 1936-37 totaled 4,517,000 bushels as against 7,606,000 bushels imported in the corresponding months of 1935-36. Exports of

flour amounted to only 649,000 barrels as against 1,496,000 barrels exported in July-January 1935-36, and the total for the year it not expected to exceed 1,350,000 barrels, or about 60 percent of 1935-36 exports.

Manchuria

A substantial expansion in the wheat acreage of Manchuria is expected in 1937 if normal conditions are experienced during the spring months. Average yields would result in a larger crop than that obtained in 1936, when yields were below average. Milling facilities in Manchuria are being increased and improved, so that the 1936-37 demand for flour has been met largely by domestic production. Flour imports from July 1 to December 31 amounted to only 880,000 barrels in 1936 as against 2,009,000 barrels in 1935. The total for the marketing year is estimated at about 2,400,000 barrels as compared with 3,142,000 barrels imported in 1935-36.

COTTON

Chinese imports of American cotton decline

American raw cotton imports into China during the period October-January 1936-37 amounted to 4,291 bales as against 19,064 bales during a similar 1935-36 period, according to Agricultural Commissioner Owen L. Dawson, at Shanghai. Total foreign cotton imports during the first 4 months of the present season totaled 31,171 bales, or only 1,326 bales less than in October-January 1936. Despite the shortage of an adequate supply of cotton for higher counts, Chinese commitments for foreign cotton are very small, amounting to 2,000 bales American, 6,000 African, 3,000 Indian, and 4,000 bales Egyptian.

CHINA: Imports of raw cotton in January 1936, with comparisons
(In bales of 500 pounds)

Growth	January		October-January	
	1936	1937	1936	1937
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
American.....	7,127	2,234	19,064	4,291
Indian.....	439	1,347	4,261	3,373
Egyptian.....	3,417	4,078	8,891	10,254
Others.....	---	1,754	281	13,253
Total.....	10,983	9,413	32,497	31,171

Prices of domestic cotton have risen slightly, but they have not advanced as much as those of foreign staple, especially American. Mills

have been working at near capacity, and present prospects indicate that mill consumption will reach 2,500,000 bales in the 1936-37 crop year.

In view of the prevailing favorable cotton prices, there will be a tendency to increase the cotton acreage this spring, although on account of dry soil conditions it is still uncertain whether this can be carried out in North China. The expected increase in the Yangtze Valley will insure an acreage at least equal to that of last year.

CHINA: Stocks in Shanghai public warehouses, February 29, 1937, with comparisons

Growth	1936	1937	
	February 29	January 31	February 28
	<u>Bales</u>	<u>Bales</u>	<u>Bales</u>
American	2,200	1,000	a/
Indian	400	a/	---
Chinese	84,562	144,000	118,000
Egyptian	1,832	1,000	2,000
Others	---	1,000	2,000
Total.....	88,994	147,000	122,000

a/ Negligible.

CHINA: Price per pound of specified grades of cotton and yarn at Shanghai, March 11, 1937, with comparisons

Growth	Date of delivery	February 5, 1937	March 11, 1937
		<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Domestic cotton...	Current month	11.48	11.67
Domestic cotton...	2 months forward	11.70	11.97
American middling	Immediate shipment	17.16	18.44
Indian Akola.....	Immediate shipment	12.71	13.34
Yarn.....	2 months forward	17.04	16.71

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

Exports of Cuban vegetables declined in February

The volume of exports of fresh vegetables from Cuba to the United States declined in February as compared with those of the preceding month and February a year ago, as reported by Harold S. Tewell, American Consul at Habana. Total shipments in February amounted to 7,698 short tons against 9,311 tons in February 1936. Tomatoes comprised the bulk of the shipments.

Shipments of tomatoes during March are expected to be somewhat larger than the 167,383 lugs exported in March of 1936. Although supplies of lima beans are plentiful, the quality is poor and shipments during March are not expected to exceed the 14,289 hampers shipped in March last year. A decline in production and the scarcity of high quality stock suitable for export have affected eggplant shipments and consequently no increase in shipments of that vegetable is anticipated. A poor demand for peppers has restricted exports to the United States, and exports will probably be light for the balance of the season.

CUBA: Exports of winter vegetables to the United States,
November 1 to February 28, 1934-35 to 1936-37

Vegetable	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>	<u>1,000 pounds</u>
Tomatoes.....	38,711	44,394	44,792
Eggplant.....	2,220	4,940	4,487
Peppers.....	2,084	3,863	2,406
Okra.....	783	1,026	1,138
Lima beans.....	2,971	6,003	4,628
Cucumbers.....	1,594	2,237	2,639
Potatoes.....	609	827	1,139
Total.....	48,972	63,290	61,219

Compiled by Harold S. Tewell, American Consul at Habana. Figures represent gross weights.

LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND WOOL

British cured-pork quota extended at existing rate

The British Board of Trade announces that imports of cured pork from non-Empire countries will be permitted at the existing rate (approximately 11,508,000 pounds per week) to the end of June. In view of the fact that during the May 1 - August 31 period last year the quota rate (11,557,000 pounds per week) was higher than during any other period in 1936, the new rate for May-June 1937 represents a reduction of 0.5 percent from that of the same months in 1936. Quota figures for the first half of 1937, however, at approximately 297,590,000 pounds, represent a 2.4-percent increase compared with corresponding 1936 figures of 290,672,000 pounds. The United States quota represents as usual 8.1 percent of the total and for the second quarter of 1937 will amount to nearly 12,119,000 pounds.

Sydney wool sales open strong

The current wool sales opened at Sydney, Australia, on March 15 with prices from 5 to 7.5 percent higher than at the close of the preceding

series on February 25, according to cabled advices from Agricultural Attaché C. C. Taylor at London. There was a good selection of offerings, with keen, general competition in evidence from Yorkshire, Japan, Continental Europe, and the United States.

Developments at the Sydney sales substantiate tendencies toward higher prices noted earlier in the month by British observers. Yorkshire buyers have been active in all primary markets since March 1, according to Consul E. E. Evans at Bradford. The stronger tone also was prevalent in the London wool sales of March 2 - 12. The recent firmness in raw materials prices has removed a considerable amount of uncertainty with respect to future trends, and spinners have been receiving larger orders for yarn. The piece goods trade also continued to improve as raw wool prices hardened. Most manufacturers are reported as well occupied, with some delay being experienced in deliveries.

WHEAT, INCLUDING FLOUR: Shipments from principal exporting countries as given by current trade sources, 1934-35 to 1936-37

Country	Total shipments		Shipments 1937 week ended			Shipments July 1 - March 13	
	1934-35	1935-36	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	1935-36	1936-37
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
North America a/	162,832	219,688	3,312	2,184	1,472	139,976	175,134
Canada,							
4 markets b/..	176,059	246,199	218	446	612	187,635	162,620
United States c/	31,532	15,930	160	194	168	5,186	6,435
Argentina.....	186,228	77,384	8,760	9,090	7,239	62,304	108,041
Australia.....	111,628	110,060	3,432	3,739	2,516	79,916	64,803
U.S.S.R.	1,672	30,224	0	0	0	27,808	88
Danube and Bulgaria d/	4,104	8,218	232	136	192	7,904	46,992
British India... c/2,318 c/2,529			0	80	72	256	7,936
Total e/.....	468,782	448,101				318,164	402,994
Total European shipments a/..	387,752	355,032	13,040			f/ 240,088	f/ 305,272
Total ex-European shipments a/..	147,938	133,528	3,096			f/ 86,888	f/ 90,824

Compiled from official and trade sources. a/ Broomhall's Corn Trade News. b/ Fort William, Port Arthur, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, and New Westminster. c/ Official. d/ Black Sea shipments only. e/ Total of trade figures includes North America as reported by Broomhall. f/ To February 27.

WHEAT: Closing Saturday prices of May futures

Date	Chicago		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Winnipeg a/		Liverpool a/		Buenos Aires b/	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
High c/...	103	138	102	130	112	144	89	132	96	134	d/ 94	d/ 110
Low c/....	97	126	94	120	106	132	83	118	89	119	d/ 91	d/ 94
Feb. 20...	99	133	97	124	108	140	84	126	90	124	91	100
27...	100	132	98	123	109	138	84	125	90	125	91	101
Mar. 6...	100	135	97	127	108	140	85	129	91	131	91	104
13...	100	134	98	126	108	139	85	130	93	133	e/ 92	108

a/ Conversions at noon buying rate of exchange. b/ Prices are of day previous to other prices. c/ January 1 to date. d/ March and May futures. e/ June futures.

WHEAT: Weekly weighted average cash price at stated markets

Week ended	All classes and grades six markets		No. 2 Hard Winter Kansas City		No. 1 Dk. N. Spring Minneapolis		No. 2 Hard Amber Durum Minneapolis		No. 2 Red Winter St. Louis		Western White Seattle a/	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
High b/...	108	150	118	144	135	157	123	206	111	145	90	117
Low b/....	100	135	107	133	125	152	115	154	106	137	85	110
Feb. 20...	106	140	111	138	132	165	---	178	108	143	85	116
27...	107	135	113	133	126	156	118	158	111	139	87	112
Mar. 6...	104	139	108	138	130	152	123	154	110	142	83	113
13...	100	139	109	138	125	154	115	206	108	142	88	---

a/ Weekly average of daily cash quotations, basis No. 1 sacked. b/ January 1, to date.

MANCHURIA: Exports of soybeans and soybean products, October - February, 1935-36 and 1936-37

Product	Exports October - February		Surplus remaining on February 28	
	1935-36	1936-37	1936	1937
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Beans	1,022,000	1,184,000	1,026,000	1,407,000
Oil	43,700	33,400	39,000	49,300
Bean cake and meal.	462,000	433,000	504,000	614,000

American Consulate, Dairen.

FEED GRAINS AND RYE: Weekly average price per bushel of corn, rye, oats, and barley at leading markets^{a/}

Week ended	Corn						Rye		Oats		Barley	
	Chicago				Buenos Aires		Minneapolis		Chicago		Minneapolis	
	No. 3 Yellow		Futures		Futures		No. 2		No. 3 White		No. 2	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
High ^{b/} ...	62	113	61	111	41	51	58	117	31	55	74	137
Low ^{b/} ...	60	108	60	105	39	48	53	106	28	49	58	117
			^{May}	^{May}	^{May}	^{May}						
Feb. 13..	61	113	61	110	^{c/} 39	50	57	117	30	54	63	137
20..	62	111	61	108	39	50	56	113	31	52	58	133
27..	61	109	61	106	40	48	56	106	30	49	74	127
Mar. 6..	62	112	61	108	41	50	55	106	29	49	69	124
13..	61	113	61	109	41	51	53	107	28	50	68	117

^{a/} Cash prices are weighted averages of reported sales; future prices are simple averages of daily quotations. ^{b/} For period January 1 to latest date shown. ^{c/} April delivery.

FEED GRAINS: Movement from principal exporting countries

Commodity and country	Exports for year		Shipments 1937, week ended ^{a/}			Exports as far as reported		
	1934-35	1935-36	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	July 1 to	1935-36 ^{b/}	1936-37 ^{b/}
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels		bushels	bushels
BARLEY, EXPORTS: ^{c/}	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
United States...	4,050	9,886	0	119	181	Mar. 13	7,876	4,238
Canada.....	14,453	6,882				Feb. 28	4,570	16,496
Argentina.....	20,739	9,468	1,137			Feb. 27	4,112	10,200
Danube & U.S.S.R.	11,250	37,375	132	190	25	Mar. 13	39,516	23,096
Total.....	50,492	63,611					56,074	54,030
OATS, EXPORTS: ^{c/}								
United States...	1,147	1,429	0	0	1	Mar. 13	783	516
Canada.....	17,407	14,892				Feb. 28	11,204	8,495
Argentina.....	43,753	9,790	999	661	1,481	Mar. 13	7,734	15,476
Danube & U.S.S.R.	8,444	2,847	0	0	0	Mar. 13	1,390	810
Total.....	70,751	28,958					21,111	25,297
CORN, EXPORTS: ^{d/}						Nov. 1 to		
United States...	880	885	6	2	2	Mar. 13	190	132
Danube & U.S.S.R.	14,939	14,984	595	1,301	265	Mar. 13	3,466	11,225
Argentina.....	256,143	307,638	7,945	6,945	5,256	Mar. 13	110,907	157,810
South Africa....	21,882	8,910	25	51	34	Mar. 13	5,348	2,532
Total.....	293,844	332,417					119,911	171,699
United States imports.....	41,141	24,521				Jan. 31	5,612	16,103

Compiled from official and trade sources. ^{a/} The weeks shown in these columns are nearest to the date shown. ^{b/} Preliminary. ^{c/} Year beginning July 1. ^{d/} Year beginning November 1.

Index

	Page		Page
Late caales.....	157	:: Pork, import quota extension,	
-----		:: U. K., May-June 1937.....	162
Barley, area and production,		:: Rye, prices, U. S., March 13, 1937	165
Tunis, 1935, 1936.....	157	:: Soybeans:	
Corn:		:: Exportable surplus, Manchuria,	
Area, Tunis, 1935, 1936.....	157	Feb. 28, 1937.....	164
Production:		:: Exports, Manchuria, October-	
Poland, 1935, 1936.....	157	February, 1936-37.....	164
Tunis, 1935, 1936.....	157	:: Tobacco, production, Poland,	
Cotton:		1935, 1936.....	157
Imports, China,		:: Vegetables, exports to U.S., Cuba,	
January 1936, 1937.....	160	Nov. 1-Feb. 28, 1936-37.....	162
Prices, Shanghai, March 11, 1937	161	:: Wheat:	
Stocks, Shanghai, Feb. 28, 1937.	161	Area:	
Flax fiber, production,		Europe, 1937.....	158
Poland, 1935, 1936.....	157	India, 1936, 1937.....	157
Flaxseed, production, Poland,		Tunis, 1935, 1936.....	157
1935, 1936.....	157	:: Prices:	
Grains (feed):		China, March 11, 1937.....	159
Movement, principal countries,		Specified markets,	
March 13, 1937.....	165	March 13, 1937.....	164
Prices, principal markets,		:: Production, Tunis, 1935, 1936....	157
March 13, 1937.....	165	:: Shipments, principal countries,	
Hemp fiber, production, Poland,		March 13, 1937.....	163
1935, 1936.....	157	:: Situation:	
Hempseed, production, Poland,		Europe, February 1937.....	158
1935, 1936.....	157	Orient, February 1937.....	159
Oats, area and production,		:: Wool, sales, Sydney, Australia,	
Tunis, 1935, 1936.....	157	March 15-18, 1937.....	157, 162



